Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Agriculture

This information is provided as a resource by Saskatchewan Agriculture staff.
All stated cattle prices are based on the weekly Canfax Market Outlook and Summary.
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Cattle Market Update

For the Week Ending October 25, 2013

All prices are quoted in Canadian dollars per hundredweight ($/cwt) unless otherwise stated.

Feeder Cattle

Steers

	Range	Average	Change from last week
300-400	180-209	188.93	-1.17
400-500	170-196	180.06	+0.36
500-600	157-178	165.17	-0.75
600-700	150-166	158.73	+0.48
700-800	144-159	151.50	+2.70
800-900	135-149	142.25	+0.44
900+	130-141	135.75	-0.88

Heifers

	Range	Average	Change from last week
300-400	148-172	159.78	-0.92
400-500	141-166	150.42	-2.01
500-600	133-155	141.42	-0.71
600-700	129-144	136.44	+0.19
700-800	124-140	132.35	+1.25
800+	121-133	128.33	-2.13

Source: Canfax.

Note: Prices are determined from Saskatchewan auction marts' reports of sale results from Thursday of the previous week to Thursday of the current week.

Canfax reported that a total of 40,610 head of cattle were sold in Saskatchewan this week, up significantly from 15,281 head marketed the previous week.

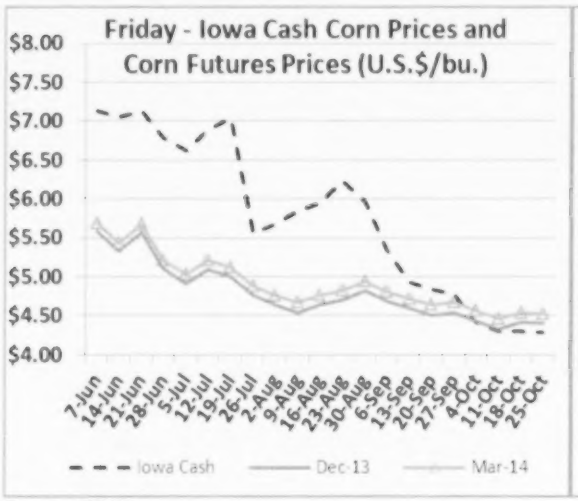
Feeder cattle prices were mixed over the week with large volumes of calves being sold. Price ranges overall narrowed from the previous week. Average prices for feeder steers ranged from $1.17 per cwt lower to $2.70 per cwt higher over the week. The feeder steers in the 700-800 lb. weight category had the biggest gains from the previous week increasing $2.70 per cwt. Most of the price gains were in the 600-900 lb. weight categories.

Feeder heifer prices were mostly lower over the week. Feeder heifer prices ranged from $2.13 per cwt lower to $1.25 per cwt higher. The 700-800 lb. weight category increased the most at $1.25 per cwt while the 600-700 lb. weight category had a small gain. The remaining weight categories all had losses over the week.

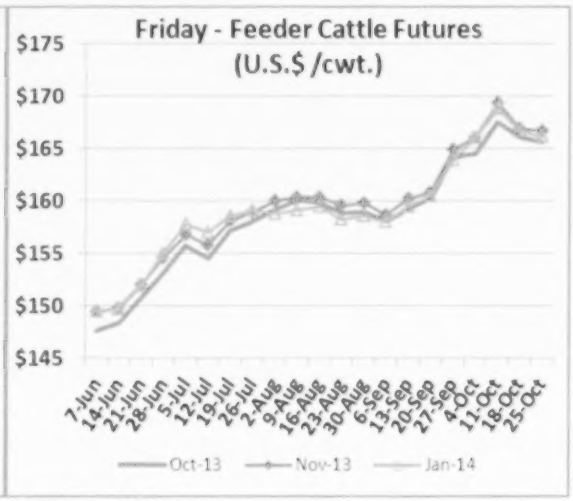
The Saskatchewan 750 lb. feeder steer basis compared to the October 24, 2013 U.S. feeder cattle index at US$165.07 per cwt was calculated at -$21.08 per cwt (US$165.07/0.9565 - $151.50).

Feeder cattle futures prices were slightly lower over the week with the October to January contracts decreasing between US$0.200 per cwt and US$0.550 per cwt, week-over-week. The October feeder contract settled at US$165.550 per cwt while the January contract settled the week at US$166.050 per cwt.

Corn prices were overall steady with small losses for the week. The Iowa cash price declined one cent to close Friday at US$4.28 per bushel, while the December corn futures contract decreased just over one cent to close the week at US$4.40 per bushel.



Source: CME



Source: CME

Live cattle futures prices were higher. The October to February contracts increased between US$0.150 per cwt and US$2.700 (October) per cwt higher. The October contract settled at US$132.575 per cwt while the February contract settled the week at US$134.025 per cwt.

Fed and Non-fed Cattle

	October 25	October 18	Change
Cows (Alberta)			
D1,2 Live	78.33	76.79	+1.54
D3 Live	69.33	68.64	+0.69
Rail	147-152	149-154	-2.00

Source: Canfax.

Prices for liveweight, non-fed cattle in Alberta were higher from the previous week with D1,2 slaughter cows increasing $1.54 per cwt to average $78.33 per cwt, while D3 slaughter cows increased $0.69 per cwt to average $69.33 per cwt, from last week.

Fed cattle prices in Western Canada were higher over the week. Fed steers in Alberta were reported to average $122.24 per cwt, up $0.86 per cwt from $121.38 per cwt the previous week. Fed cattle prices were very close to all-time highs in Alberta.

The live (FOB feedlot) weighted average 5-area (Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Iowa/Minnesota) weekly fed steer price in the U.S. was reported at US$132.23 per cwt. Fed cattle prices in the U.S set new record highs. The dressed (delivered basis) price for U.S. steers delivered to plants in the 5-area was reported at US$207.77 per cwt.

Beef cutout prices were higher over the week averaging US$200.09 per cwt (Choice 600-900 lb.), up 2.0 per cent from US$196.16 per cwt the previous week. Beef production for the week averaged 494.1 million lb., up 0.3 per cent from 492.4 million lb. the previous week, but down 3.6 per cent from 512.8 million lb. the same week a year ago. Weekly cattle slaughter numbers totaled 618,000 head, up slightly from 617,000 head the previous week, but down 4.3 per cent from 648,000 head a year ago.

Tyson Foods announced that they will no longer be buying Canadian slaughter cattle for direct shipment to their U.S. beef plants, due to the impact of U.S. country-of-origin labeling rules. Tyson will continue to buy Canadian-born cattle that are finished for market in United States feedlots.

Friday Price Information

Product		This Week (October 25)	Week of: (October 18)
Canadian Dollar (closing rate US$)		.9565	.9714
U.S. Cash Cattle			
Thurs. Feeder Cattle (FC) Index (US$ per cwt)		165.07	NA
Seven-day Weighted Average FC Index Wt. (lb.)		743	NA
Live Fed 5-area Steer Price (US$ per cwt)		132.23	NA
Feed Grains			
Barley	Lethbridge ($/tonne)	185.00	184.00
	($ per bu.)	4.03	4.01
Corn	Iowa State Average (CDN$/tonne)*	176.16	173.86
	(US$ per bu.)	4.28	4.29
	Omaha, NE (CDN$/tonne)*	178.22	179.94
	(US$ per bu.)	4.33	4.44
Futures			
	December Corn (US$ per bu.)	4.40	4.41½
	March Corn (US$ per bu.)	4.52	4.54
	October Live Cattle (US$ per cwt)	132.575	129.875
	December Live Cattle (US$ per cwt)	132.975	132.025
	October Feeder Cattle (US$ per cwt)	165.550	166.075
	January Feeder Cattle (US$ per cwt)	166.050	166.600

Sources: Bank of Canada, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship,
Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), ICE Futures Canada and USDA Livestock & Grain Market News
* conversion to CDN$ is based on Friday's CDN$ closing rate

Note: Cow-calf producers in Saskatchewan are reminded to check with their local market operators regarding current market conditions for non-fed cattle. Producers are also reminded that old, thin cows have a very low market value. The non-fed prices quoted each week do not represent the market price for these animals. As an alternative to transporting these animals, you may want to check with your local veterinarian or the nearest Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) office to see if these animals are eligible for testing as part of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) surveillance program. Producers receive $75 from the CFIA for each eligible sample submitted. The goal of this program is to prove that the BSE control measures implemented in Canada are working.

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